



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act Program
Communications Center
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Date: September 16, 2019

Andy Thayer
4845 N Kenmore Avenue, #2
Chicago, IL 60640
chicagoantiwar@gmail.com

File Number: 20191210

Dear Requester:

This letter is intended to acknowledge the receipt of your recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) on August 30, 2019, for information pertaining to a possible "G20" summit at or around the McCormick Place complex in Chicago, Illinois in the year 2021. "G20" is also known variously as the "G8" and "G7".

You have requested expedited processing of your request under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) standard permitting expedition when a requester demonstrates a "compelling need."

Your request, for expedited treatment, has been denied.

Under the DHS/FOIA regulation, 6 C.F.R., Chapter I, Part 5 § 5.5, expedited processing of a FOIA request is warranted if the request involves "circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual" ((d)(1)(i)), or "an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information" ((d)(1)(ii)). Requesters that seek expedited processing must submit a statement explaining, in detail, the basis for the request. Additionally, FOIA regulation, 6 C.F.R., Chapter I, Part 5 § 5.5(d)(3), requires that statements be certified, by the requester, to be "true and correct to the best of that person's knowledge and belief."

Your request has been denied because you do not qualify under either category. Clearly, you have not demonstrated that there is a threat to the life or physical safety of an individual nor have you demonstrated there is a particular urgency to inform the public about the government activity involved in the request, beyond the public's right to know about government activity, generally. Your letter was conclusory in nature and did not present any facts to justify a grant of expedited processing under the applicable standards.

Additionally, provisions of the Act allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for the records in accordance with Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to "all other" requesters. The first 100 pages of duplication are free of charge. As an "all other" requester, you will be charged .10 cents a page for the duplication of each additional page. As an "all other" requester, the first 2 hours of search time are free of charge, after which you will be charged the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00, \$7.00, \$10.25) of the searcher.

Please be advised, the submission of your request is considered a firm commitment by you to pay all applicable duplication and search time costs charged, under 6 C.F.R., Chapter I, Part 5 § 5.11, up to \$25.00. A search for files responsive to your request is being conducted. The appropriate components of the Secret Service are being queried for responsive documents. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for a disclosure determination. You will be contacted before any additional fees are accrued.

If you deem our decision an adverse determination, you may exercise your appeal rights. Should you wish to file an administrative appeal, your appeal should be made in writing and received within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter, by writing to: Freedom of Information Appeal, Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service, Communications Center, 245 Murray Lane, S.W., Building T-5, Washington, D.C. 20223. If you choose to file an administrative appeal, please explain the basis of your appeal and reference the case number listed above.

Additionally, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Please note that contacting the Secret Service's FOIA Program and/or OGIS is **not** an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and **does not** stop the 90-day appeal clock. You may contact OGIS at: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. You may also reach OGIS via e-mail at ogis@nara.gov, telephone at 202-741-5770/toll free at (877) 684-6448, or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

If you need any further assistance, or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact our FOIA Public Liaison Kevin Tyrrell, at (202) 406-6370. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to foia@usss.dhs.gov.

FOIA File No. 20191210 is assigned to your request. Please refer to this file number in all future communication with this office. We solicit your cooperation and assure you that the search will be conducted as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you,

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